

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A lever handle return spring assembly for a cylindrical lock mounted in a bored opening in a door includes support plates on opposite sides of the door. The support plates include cylindrically depressed inner regions that extend partially  
5 into the bored opening in the door to accommodate return springs and reduce the visual thickness of the return spring assembly. Spring housings containing corresponding pairs of compression springs turn within the depressed inner regions of the support plates and are held in place by corresponding cover plates. The support plate, cover plate, spring housing and springs on each side of the door form  
10 complete assemblies that are attached to the door via through-bolts extending through outer regions of the support plate and cover plate. At least one of the support plates preferably includes lock tabs that connect to the cylindrical lock to prevent rotation of the cylindrical lock relative to the door. The support plate and cover plate are particularly designed for strength when stamped from an initially flat  
15 sheet material. Self-lubricating bushings act as radial and thrust bearings for smooth operation.